

Please help improve the lives of rural Americans by protecting and expanding the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless providers. Wireless telecommunications is no longer a luxury in our society; it is a fundamental necessity for public health, safety and economic development.

Although I live in an urban residence, my travels necessarily take me into more rural areas. As a young mother, it is important for me to have service in these areas. Yes, I am young and spry and could probably walk miles to find assistance. However, in this day and age, that is dangerous, if not deadly. When I add my infant daughter into the equation, it is no longer even a possibility.

Capping the fund will shut the door on rural America. Less USF support for rural wireless networks will leave us with poor coverage, dropped calls and dangerous dead zones. The urban/rural technology gap will only widen.

I have lived all over the United States and have seen a varying degree of service coverage from various service providers. Please consider that one of the original reasons for obtaining a cell phone was not to chat while on the road, but rather to call for help in an emergency situation. If service is not even an option, the point of the cell phone is lost.

Rural America deserves the same cell phone service as our big cities. I urge you to expand – not cap – the USF. Please don't leave *anyone* behind.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Boyd